

Exploration and research in atomic minerals

3041. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any high powered committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to oversee statutory clearance by State and Central Authorities with regard to exploration and research pertaining to atomic minerals including nuclear raw materials;

(b) whether it is a fact that Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) is responsible for identifying exploration and research relating to atomic minerals, which is the first step required in India's Nuclear Fuel Cycle; and

(c) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, which will examine issues relating to exploration and mining of Uranium and also help remove the bottlenecks to speed up activities. This Committee will also guide and monitor uranium mining and milling projects and suggest ways to remove the constraints, which inhibit them.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit under DAE has identified 1,07,268 tonnes of Uranium Resources (U_3O_8) in six States of the country.

Violation of safety rules

3042. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety rules are not being followed properly by the Ministry of Coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any investigations and inspection in this regard;

- (d) if so, the details thereof and when;
- (e) the authorities which have been held responsible for not adhering to the safety rules properly;
- (f) the details thereof during the last three years including the action taken against the erring authorities, year-wise; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per information received from Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder prescribes safe work procedures in the mines. The mine management is required to comply with these provisions while working in the mine. Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour and Employment carry out regular inspections of the mines. On detection of urgent and immediate danger in mines, DGMS issues improvement notice and also issues prohibitory order under the Mines Act, 1952. It is imperative on the part of mine management to rectify the violations pointed out during the inspection by DGMS officers.

(c) and (d) The safety provisions are prescribed by the Mines Act, 1952 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. As per Section 18 of the Mines Act, the owner, agent and manager are each responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking such other steps as may be necessary for compliance with the provisions of Act and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Officers of DGMS under the Ministry of Labour and Employment oversee compliance by periodical inspections of mines. The officers also carry out investigation into all fatal accidents and serious complaints. The details of inspections and enquiries for the year 2006 are not yet available.

However, details of inspections and enquiries for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given below:

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Enquiries
2003	5574	966
2004	5214	834
2005	5247	933

(e) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of coal from nearby coal mines

3043. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Gujarat is getting coal for power generation from coalfield located far away, with the result the freight cost of coal is higher than the actual cost of the coal;

(b) whether Government are considering to allocate coal from the nearby coal mines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the State of Gujarat is far away from the coal bearing States, in some cases, the cost of freight in transportation of coal becomes higher than the coal price. However, efforts are made by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial committee comprising of Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways and representatives of coal companies, to allocate coal to various power utilities, keeping in view, *inter-alia*, their proximity from the coalfields, coal availability, grade of coal as per the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) norms and transport logistics involved. Coal allocation accordingly to power stations in Gujarat is made, to the extent possible, from South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Chhattisgarh and Western Coalfields Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Illegal coal mining in different coalfields

†3044. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the incidents of illegal mining are taking place in different coalfields in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.